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TO

Add to the existing number of ex-officio Guardians of Poor Law Unions in Ireland certain Clergymen resident in each Union.

A.D. 1880.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to have persons in holy orders and ministers of certain religious denominations as clerical guardians of the poor in Ireland :

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, hy and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows ; that is to say,

1. The number of clerical guardians of the poor for each union in Ireland shall be the nearest whole number not exceeding one-fourth of the entire number to which elected and ex-officio guardians of such union, taken together, are limited by the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners or Local Government Board for Ireland for the time being in force in such union.

Number of clerical guardians.

2. The clerical guardians shall be divided amongst the different religious denominations in each union in proportion to the persons professing to belong to such denominations in such unions, as ascertained by the last previous religious census taken and published under the authority of Parliament : Provided that, if persons professing to belong to a denomination in any union shall be less than the whole population of the union at such census divided by twice the number of clerical guardians, such denomination shall not be entitled to a representative.

How to be distributed amongst different religious denominations.

3. The exact number of clerical representatives to be returned for each religious denomination in a union under preceding section shall be ascertained and declared by the Local Government Board for Ireland, and notice thereof sent to the acting highest dignitary or senior minister (if all equal in dignity) of the church or denomination actually engaged in discharging religious duty in such union on or before the first of January in each year.

Notice of number of clerical guardians to represent each denomination to be sent by Local Government Board to highest dignitary or senior member of church or denomination in union.

[Bill 21.]

A.D. 1880.

How clerical  
guardians to  
be returned.

4. The clerical guardians to represent each denomination in a union shall, on or before the *twenty-fifth day of March* in each year, and on or before the expiration of six weeks after the death or resignation of a clerical guardian, be returned to the Local Government Board for Ireland under the hand of the acting highest dignitary or senior minister, if all of equal dignity, of the church or denomination actually engaged in the discharge of religious duty in such union, and such return shall be conclusive evidence that any person in holy orders or minister named therein has been duly selected as a guardian of the poor of such union. And the clerical guardians shall in case of vacancy caused by resignation or death be immediately, and in other cases from the *twenty-fifth day of March* in the year in which return made, be entitled to act as guardians of the poor of such union, for all intents and purposes.

**Poor Law Guardians  
(Ireland).**

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**B I L L**

To add to the existing number of official Guardians of Poor Law Unions in Ireland certain Clergymen resident in each Union.

*(Prepared and brought in by  
Mr. Jno. M. P. J. O'Connell, Mr. Francis Martin,  
Mr. Donoghue, and Mr. Edmund.)*

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